

Site: M:26/17/2

Warfield-Smith-Brown House

Built:1875-1900

14615 Avery Road

Private

In the fourth quarter of the 19th century, Ann Warfield constructed this small vernacular Victorian dwelling house on 1/2 acre near Horner's Mill, about 2 miles from Rockville. The property functioned as a small suburban farm through the mid-20th century. The first black owner, Grant Smith, lived here from 1902-1933, operating George Shaw's farm across the road. For the past 54 years, the Brown-Johnson family has owned the homestead.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. M:26/17/2

Magi No. 1651505604

DOE ☐ yes ☐ noNR eligible ☐ yes ☒ no  
contrib. element in H.D. ☐

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Warfield-Smith-Brown House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 14615 Avery Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Rockville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 18)

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bertha Brown and Eddie Dee Johnsonstreet & number c/o Rupert Johnson, 10001 Rockville Pike telephone no.: 251-1572city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20874

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 2570street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 465city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Nonedate ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 7. Description

Survey No.M:26/17/2

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☒ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The subject house faces south to Avery Road, situated on a triangular parcel, formerly a suburban homestead. Redgate Golf Course is south, across Avery Road, and County-owned property (Mark Twain School and Second Genesis Residential Rehabilitation Program) surrounds the property to the east, north and west. The site is shaded by mature trees and retains remainders of iris, daylily and other perennial beds, old apple and cherry trees, grape and berry plantings. A screen of mature lilacs shields the house from the road. Access is by private drive from Avery Road. A garage, smokehouse, and covered wellhead are northeast of the house with the remains of a chicken coop and hog houses. Although the plantings, house and outbuildings show signs of care in years past, the property has been vacant for some years and has suffered from vandalism and deterioration.

This vernacular, frame, 2-1/2 story "L"-shaped house has a random coursed fieldstone foundation, wood-grained asbestos siding over the original clapboard, and a composition shingle roof. The cross-gable roof with returns is in poor condition, with part of the shingles and sheathing removed, exposing the attic to the elements. There is one central interior brick chimney in the main block and another on the east facade of the addition. (See photographs, attachment 7.2)

In plan, this house is a two-bay by one-bay rectangular two-over-two room house with a shed-roofed rear kitchen. In the early part of this century, a 2-1/2 story one-bay addition was added to the east (then front) facade forming an "L" shape, and the main entry was moved to the south side of the new addition.

This vernacular house, probably dating from the fourth quarter of the 19th century, was built simply and inexpensively. The exposed rafters and roof members are hewn timbers, as are interior framing members noted by the owner's son when interior renovations were done in the 1960s. Windows are 2/2 with plain surrounds. Shutters have been removed.

The west facade consists of the one-bay by two-bay west addition and the remaining one-bay main block. The addition has one window in each of the two bays on the first and second story on the north facade, one window in each bay of the first and second story of the west facade, and one window in each bay of the second story of the

continued on attachment 7 page 1 (7.1)

Description (continued) : 14615 Avery Road

---

south facade. The first story has one window in the west bay and an exterior door in the east bay. The mainblock has one window in the south bay, second story, and the former principal exterior door in the south bay, first story. This door has been closed off in the interior. An aluminum awning supported by one steel post at the west corner shelters the entryway. Access is by a modern expanded mesh and steel frame stair unit.

The one-bay south mainblock facade has one window in each bay, first and second stories.

The two-bay east facade has a window in each of the two second story bays. A shed-roofed addition occupies the first story. The addition has one window on the south side, a window in the south bay of the east facade, and an exterior door in the north bay, and one window in the north facade.

The one-bay mainblock north facade has a small four light window in the gable, and one window on the first story.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/17/2

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1870s **Builder/Architect** local history

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

### Significance

This small vernacular Victorian dwelling was framed with traditional hand-hewn timbers and functioned as a suburban homestead through the mid-20th century.

### ROCKVILLE HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN DATA:

1. Historic context theme(s): Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning.
2. Geographic Organization: Piedmont, Montgomery County, City of Rockville
3. Chronological Period(s): "Maturation and Expansion" 1873–1931
4. Resource type: Suburban Homestead with single family detached residence.

### History and Support

The vernacular Victorian house on Avery Road appears to have been constructed by Ann Warfield, who received title to two square roods (approximately 1/2 acre) of land from her parents, Zachariah and Sarah Clagett, in 1876. 1/ Ann and William H. Warfield lived in the house for many years, raising a family of at least seven children there.

In 1890, Mrs. Warfield and her children sold the house and 1/2 acre, plus an adjacent 2-acre parcel, to Sarah C. Ricketts. 2/ Ricketts and her husband Ulysses took out a mortgage on the property that same year from Agnes Matlack. The Ricketts lived on the little farm through that decade; the land was assessed at \$65, the improvements \$75. 3/

continued on attachment 8 page 1 (8.1)

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : 14615 Avery Road

---

In 1899, the Ricketts defaulted on their mortgage, forcing sale of the property. In the newspaper advertisements, the parcel was described as 2-1/2 acres

"improved by a dwelling house and out buildings, with fruit trees and garden, it is located about 2 miles from Rockville on the road leading from said town to Horners Mill about a quarter of a mile from said mill, it fronts on said road opposite farm of Mr. George Shaw and is the same property conveyed to Mrs. Sarah T. Ricketts by Mrs. Ann Warfield and others on the 29th of August 1890....and on which the said Ann Warfield and family resided at the time of the conveyance to Mrs. Ricketts.

This property is very prettily located and will furnish a very desirable home for person of moderate means." 4/

Agnes Matlack, holder of the mortgage, purchased the property for \$200. 5/ She retained it for three years, but continued to live in her Rockville home. The Warfields moved into a new house at 207 Baltimore Road, and Mrs. Warfield died in 1910. In 1902, Agnes Matlack sold the property for \$400 to Grant Smith. 6/ Mr. Smith was the first black owner.

Grant Smith, with his wife Clarissa and children, lived on Avery Road for three decades. Mr. Smith operated the farm across the road, owned by George Shaw; the Shaw farm rotated crops such as corn, wheat, hay, and pasture. The Smiths owned horses, cows, and pigs, and were well thought of. The two-story (east) addition to the house was constructed by the Smiths, probably before 1920.

After George Shaw died in 1933, his farm was sold and the Smiths moved into Rockville. The Shaw farm is now the site of Red Gate Golf Course. 7/

The Smiths sold their property to John O. and Bertha Brown, 8/ who raised their family there. After John's death in the 1950s, Bertha Brown continued to live there but shared ownership with her grandchildren, Reuben and Eddie Dee Johnson. The Browns enclosed the west porch to make two rooms, one of them a kitchen. 9/

Bertha Brown died in the 1960s. Her granddaughter, Eddie Dee Johnson, owns the property and with her son is interested in renovating it for a residence again.

Statement of Significance/ History (continued) : 14615 Avery Road

---

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records, EBP 15/319 (1876).
2. Ibid., JA 21/139 (1890).
3. Montgomery County Assessment Records, 1897-8.
4. Montgomery County Sentinel, Sept. 15, 1899.
5. Montgomery County Judgment Records, TD 7/144-150 (1899).
6. Land Records op. cit., TD 24/107 (1902).
7. Recollections by Cay Bride, granddaughter of George Shaw, and Lillian Brown, daughter of Grant Smith. The two girls walked together into Rockville, where they separated to attend segregated schools there.
8. Land Records, op. cit., 558/196 (1933).
9. Recollections by Eddie Dee Johnson, Bertha Brown's granddaughter.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/17/2

Montgomery County Land, Will, and Tax Records. Montgomery County Sentinel. Interviews with Cay Bride, Lillian Brown, and Eddie Dee Johnson.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.5317 acres

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_ Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting					Northing			

B 

Zone	Easting					Northing			

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification

Fronting on Avery road.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Eileen McGuckian	Judy Christensen, Arch. Description
organization	Peerless Rockville	date February 1987
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone 762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

# CITY OF ROCKVILLE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

SCALE 1" = 600'  
JANUARY 1987

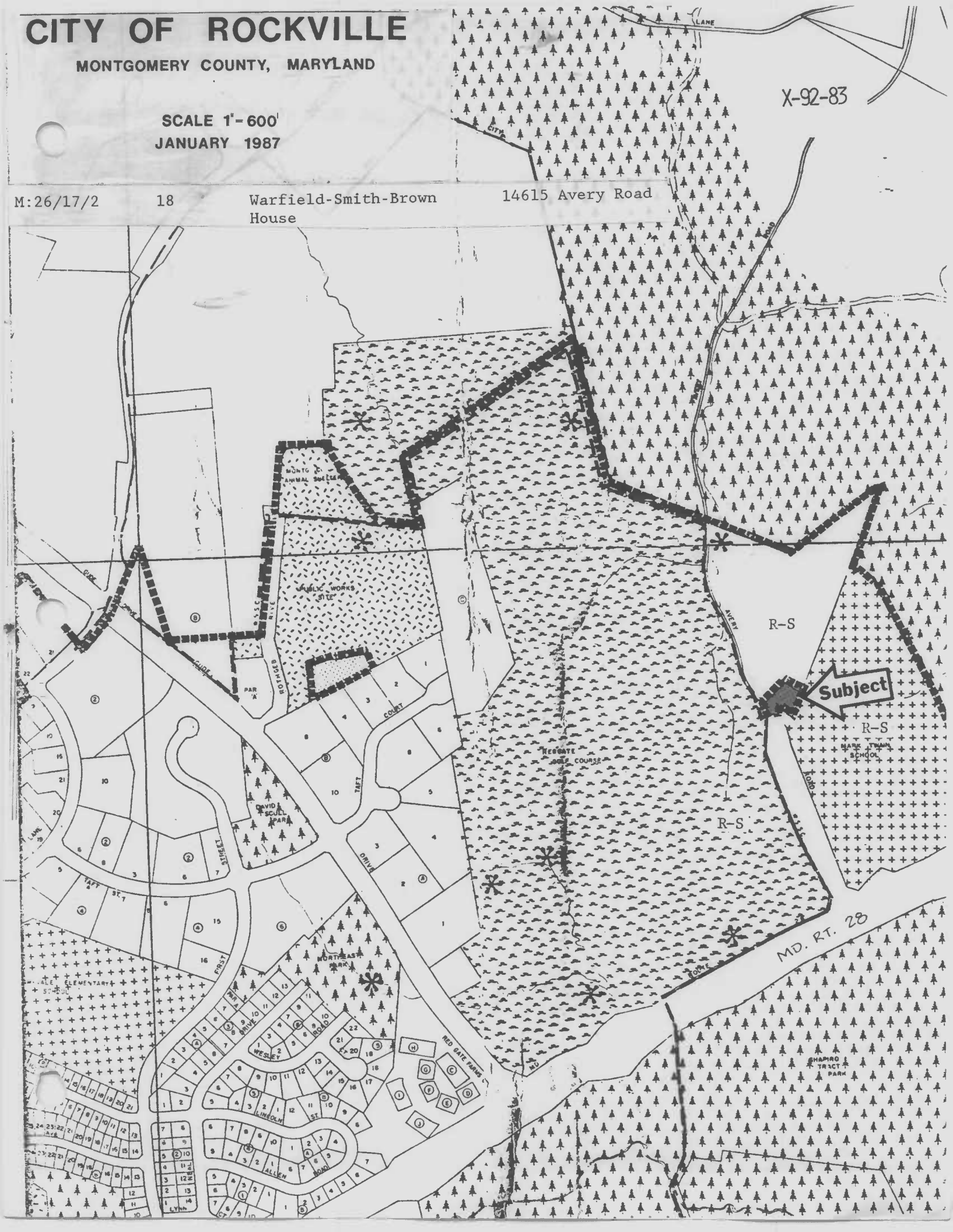
X-92-83

M:26/17/2

18

Warfield-Smith-Brown  
House

14615 Avery Road



4331

4330

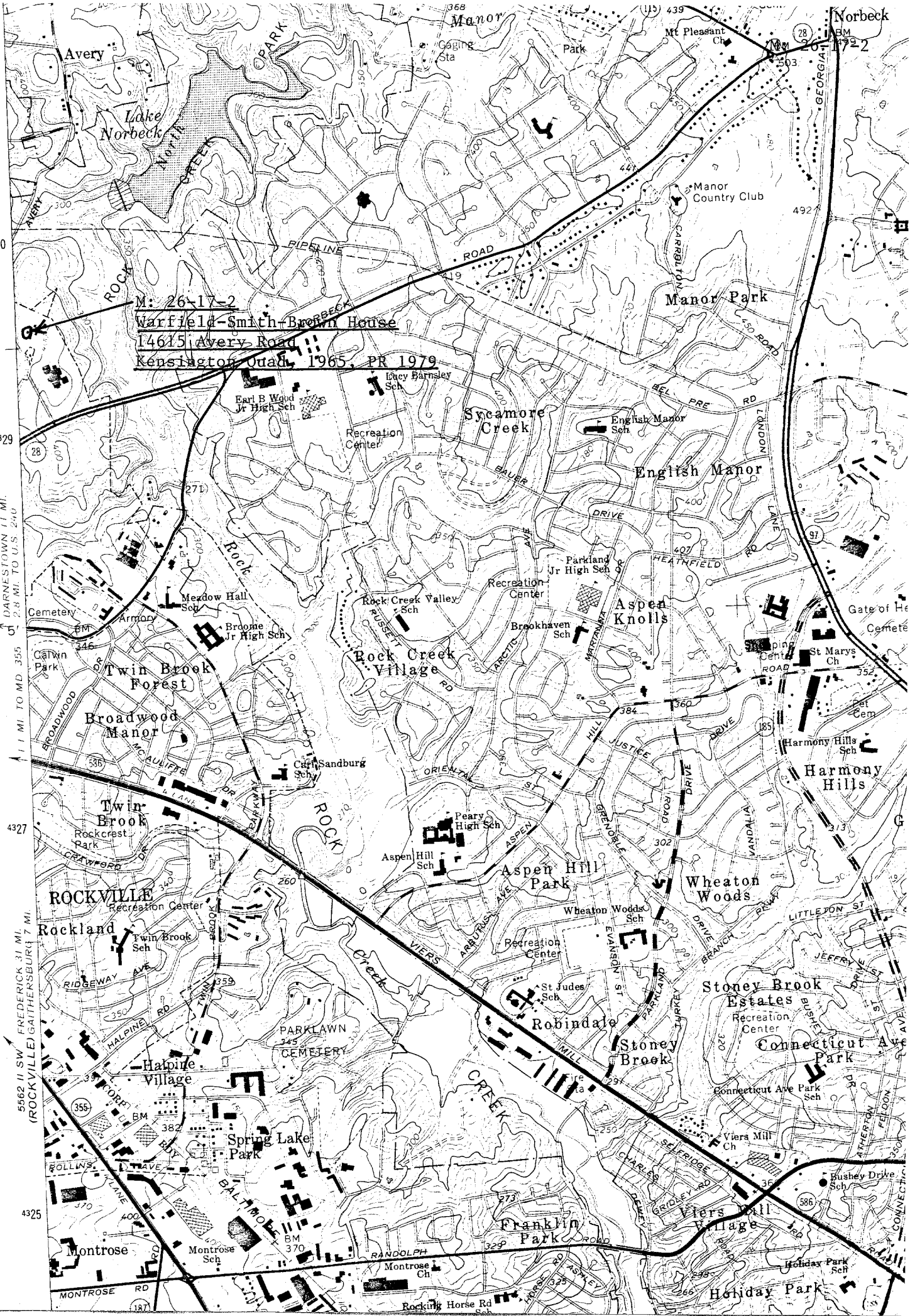
4329

DARNESTOWN 11 MI.  
2.8 MI TO U.S. 290

4327

5562 II SW FREDERICK 31 MI  
(ROCKVILLE) GAITHERSBURG 7 MI

4325

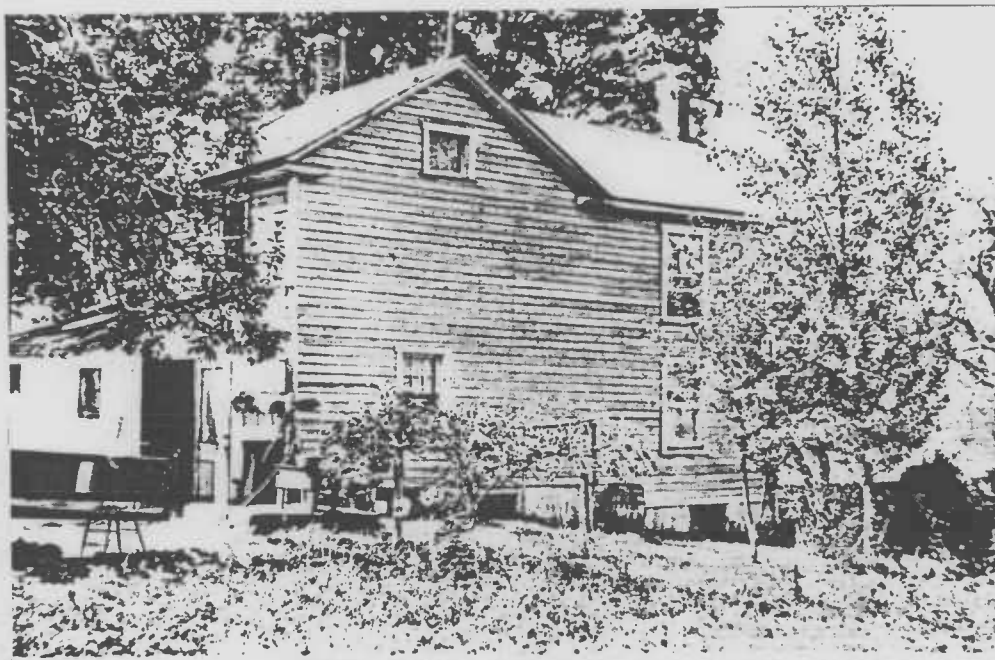
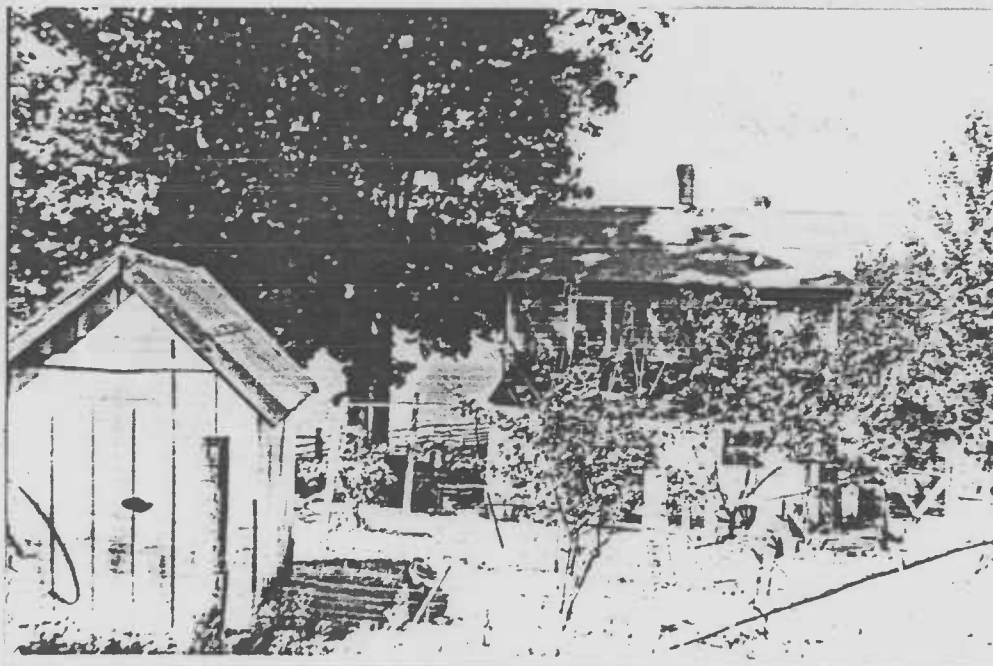


MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SURVEY NO. M:26/17/2  
SECTION 7 PAGE 2

Description (continued) : 14615 Avery Road  
Photographs of 14615 Avery Road ca. 1950s

---

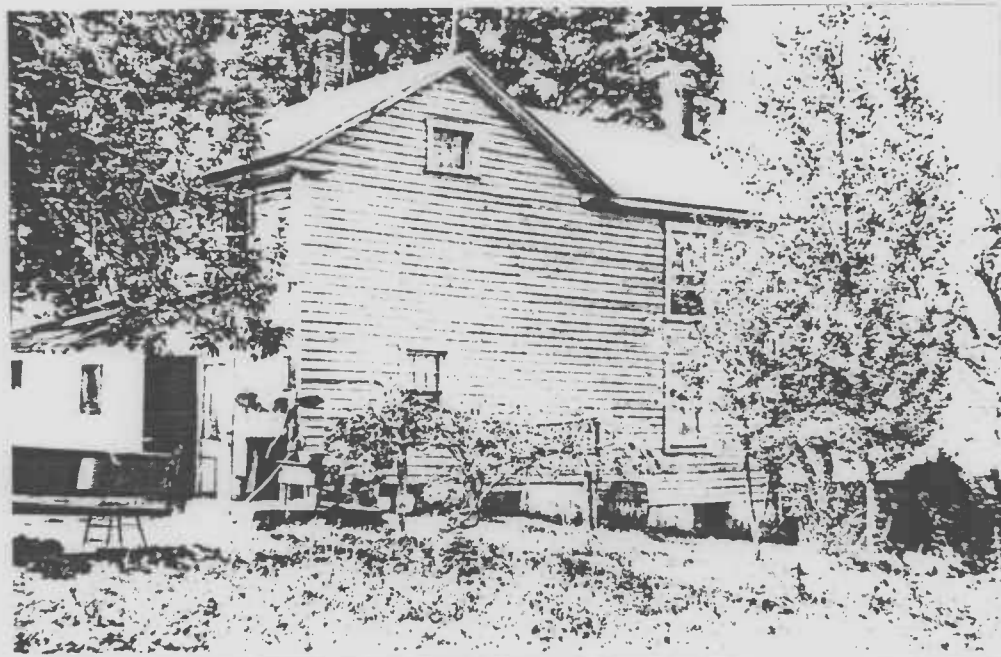


MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

SURVEY NO. M:26/17/2  
SECTION 7 PAGE 2

Description (continued) : 14615 Avery Road  
Photographs of 14615 Avery Road ca. 1950s

---





RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
424-8282  
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M:26/17/2  
Warfield-Smith-Brown  
14615 Avery Road  
Rockville, Md. 20853  
Richard Andrews  
date:6/1987 elevation: F

12863501



RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
424-8282  
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

M:26/17/2  
Warfield-Smith-Brown  
14615 Avery Road  
Rockville, Md. 20853  
Dean Evangelista  
date: 6/1987 elevation:

12863503